

§ 701.38 Prior approval for cost-sharing.

Costs will be shared only for those practices, or components of practices, for which cost-sharing is requested and approval issued before performance thereof is started.

§ 701.39 Methods of approval.

The county committee will determine the extent to which Federal funds will be made available to share the cost of each approved practice. Approvals shall be made based on consideration of the county allocation, cost-effective opportunities for increasing timber production, potential for enhancing other forest resources, the forestry needs in the county, and the practices for which requested cost-sharing is considered by the county committee as most needed. The method approved shall provide for the issuance of notices of approval showing for each approved practice the number of units of the practice for which the Federal Government will share in the cost and the amount of the cost-share for the performance of that number of units of the practice. Notices of approved practices shall be issued before performance of the practice may be started. No practice may be approved for cost-sharing except as authorized by the National, State or county program, or in accordance with procedures incorporated therein. Available funds for cost-sharing shall not be allocated on a pro-rata basis, but shall be directed to the accomplishment of the most production attainable.

(a) Cost-sharing may be approved under annual agreements or long-term agreements.

(b) Land covered by a Great Plains Conservation Program contract is not excluded from an annual or long-term agreement if otherwise eligible and is approved by both the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

(c) The same practices, cost-share levels and general program provisions apply to both annual agreements and long-term agreements.

§ 701.40 Long-term agreements.

(a) The period of a long-term agreement will be for not less than three (3) years nor more than 10 (10) years. The

county committee and the signatories to the agreement in consultation with the State forestry representative, will mutually determine the scheduling of essential practices and practice cost-sharing over the period of the agreement.

(b) The long-term agreement will be based on a forest management plan for the land which has been developed by the service forester.

(c) The long-term agreement will provide that the owner will carry out those measures in the forest management plan which are determined to be essential whether or not cost-sharing is approved for such measures.

(d) The level of cost-sharing in effect for practices in all years of a long-term agreement shall be the level in effect for the beginning year of the agreement. The rate of cost-sharing for payment purposes for such practice will be based on the average cost of performing the practice at the time the practice is performed.

(e) A long-term agreement may be canceled for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement if, after consulting with the service forester, the county committee and State committee find that the seriousness of the irregularities warrant such action. If the agreement is canceled, the signatories to the agreement are jointly and severally responsible for refunding all cost-shares paid and will forfeit all rights to further payments under the agreement. In such a case no other refund or forfeiture provisions of these regulations apply.

(f) A long-term agreement may be revised in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, where there is a change in status of the participants or the land under agreement.

(g) An eligible person who acquires control of land under an approved agreement may elect to become a successor in interest under such agreement.

(h) An agreement will be terminated with respect to land for which loss of control has occurred and where the person acquiring control of such land elects not to become a successor in interest under the agreement. If the loss of control is for reasons beyond the